

**C. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**1. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-23 have been amended. No new matter is added by the amendments to claims, as discussed in full in sections 2 and 3 below.

**2. Objection to Claims 1 and 3**

Claim 1 has been objected to, as containing periods after the subgroups A-C. Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the notations “A.”, “B.”, and “C.”, respectively, which had been used to indicate subparagraphs within claim 1.

Claim 3 has been objected to, as containing a spelling error (“a resonant modes”). The error has been corrected, so that the phrase now reads “a resonant mode”.

**3. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In particular, claims 1 and 8 have been rejected as providing insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said optical waveguide core” in claims 1 and 8. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite “said optical waveguide” instead of “said optical waveguide core.” Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 8 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been rejected as providing insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the evanescent field.” Claim 2 has been amended to recite “an evanescent field” instead of “the evanescent field.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-23 have been rejected as providing insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “an optical resonator” in line 1 of each claim. Claims 15-23 have been amended to recite “an infrared absorption spectrometer,” instead of “an optical resonator” (claims 15-19) and instead of “an optical resonator sensor” (claims 20-23). Applicant respectfully submits that

claims 15-23 are now in condition for allowance.

The rest of the claims have been rejected as depending on a rejected base claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the amendments to claims 1, 2, and 8 above, the remaining claims (claims 3-7, and 9-14) are now in condition for allowance, as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

3. **Conclusion**

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth E. Kim

Elizabeth E. Kim, Reg. No. 43,334

McDermott, Will & Emery

28 State Street

Boston, MA 02109

(617) 535-4411

(617) 535-3800

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